

Ref. No: 1128
Date: 08/08/24
Subject: NEPTS and Pathology Specimen Courier Services

REQUEST

I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the below relating to the provision of Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS) and Pathology Specimen Courier services to your trust

The details I require are:

For Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS):

- 1) Do you currently use external suppliers for Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS)?
 - a) If not, are you planning on using them in the future?

- 2) For the financial years (April – March) 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24:
 - a) Annual spend on NEPTS by your trust, split by:
 - i) Internally provided
 - ii) Externally provided

 - b) The number of journeys provided by your trust, split by:
 - i) Internally provided
 - ii) Externally provided

- 3) The following information regarding the current provision of NEPTS at your trust:
 - a) Name of the current NEPTS provider(s)
 - b) Total contract value
 - c) Start date
 - d) End date

- 4) If a different NEPTS provider was previously used, please provide:
 - a) Name of the previous NEPTS provider(s)
 - b) Reason for change

For Pathology Specimen Courier services:

- 5) Do you currently use external suppliers for Pathology Specimen Courier services?
 - a) If not, are you planning on using them in the future?

- 6) For the financial years (April – March) 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24:
 - a) Annual spend on Pathology Specimen Courier services by your trust, split by:
 - i) Internally provided
 - ii) Externally provided

 - b) The number of journeys provided by your trust, split by:
 - i) Internally provided
 - ii) Externally provided

- 7) The following information regarding the current provision of Pathology Specimen Courier services at your trust:
 - a) Name of the current Pathology Specimen Courier provider(s)
 - b) Total contract value
 - c) Start date
 - d) End date

- 8) If a different Pathology Specimen Courier provider was previously used, please provide:
 - a) Name of the previous Pathology Specimen Courier provider(s)
 - b) Reason for change

Please make use of the Excel template attached for you to simplify the fill in process and standardise the information.

RESPONSE

- 1) Do you currently use external suppliers for Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS)?

Yes

 - a) If not, are you planning on using them in the future?

Not applicable

- 2) For the financial years (April – March) 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24:
 - a) Annual spend on NEPTS by your trust, split by:

i) **Internally provided** – It would not be possible to provide this information. Internal transport may include things like shuttle bus services between sites which are not costed and may not be exclusively used by patients – they're used by staff, carers etc.

ii) **Externally provided**

This information is not held

b) **The number of journeys provided by your trust, split by:**

i) **Internally provided**

This information is not held

ii) **Externally provided**

This information is not held

3) The following information regarding the current provision of NEPTS at your trust:

- a) **Name of the current NEPTS provider(s)**
- b) **Total contract value**
- c) **Start date**
- d) **End date**

3a) 3b) 3c) and 3d) The Trust's Procurement Contracts Register was published in response to FOI00613

4) If a different NEPTS provider was previously used, please provide:

- a) **Name of the previous NEPTS provider(s)**
- b) **Reason for change**

- a) Multiple providers have been used on contracted and ad hoc basis over a number of years dependent on capacity, availability, requirements etc.
- b) Reasons for change may include changes to any of the above. Any further disclosure of rationale, for example, on a price or other basis may be prejudicial to commercial interests therefore exempt from disclosure under the auspices of the Freedom of Information Act

For Pathology Specimen Courier services:

5) Do you currently use external suppliers for Pathology Specimen Courier services?

- a) **If not, are you planning on using them in the future?**

6) For the financial years (April – March) 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24:

a) Annual spend on Pathology Specimen Courier services by your trust, split by:

- i) Internally provided**
- ii) Externally provided**

b) The number of journeys provided by your trust, split by:

- i) Internally provided**
- ii) Externally provided**

7) The following information regarding the current provision of Pathology Specimen Courier services at your trust:

- a) Name of the current Pathology Specimen Courier provider(s)**
- b) Total contract value**
- c) Start date**
- d) End date**

8) If a different Pathology Specimen Courier provider was previously used, please provide:

- a) Name of the previous Pathology Specimen Courier provider(s)**
- b) Reason for change**

At Whiston and St Helens Hospitals the specified services are provided under the Trusts Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract with NewHospitals which also provides the hospital buildings and infrastructure.

The Soft FM Services are provided by our partner Medirest.

The Trusts PFI contract term is for a period of 35 years which runs until August 2047.

All contracts and expenditure for these services are provided as part of the PFI/ commercial agreement and as such are not discreetly identifiable

The sites covered by Medirest are StHelens Whiston and Newton Hospitals and also serves the local community health buildings and GP's.